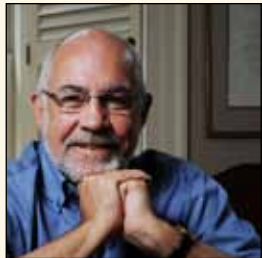




# UNIVERSITY Gazette



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MENTOR  
NEW CHAIRS



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INSPIRES BY  
EXAMPLE



12 BISHOP IS  
A 'GEEK  
FOR GOOD'



Above, John Grisham, author of 23 books including many best sellers, urges the crowd of graduates to find their own voices so they can tell their stories — and be heard. Grisham spoke during the May 9 Commencement ceremony in Kenan Stadium. More than 5,630 students completed their degrees, including an estimated 3,347 bachelor's degrees, 1,397 master's degrees, 262 doctoral and 624 professional degrees.

## Grisham advises graduates to find their own voices

In life, as in writing, the challenge is to find the right voice. Best-selling author John Grisham told the crowd of more than 30,000 during the May 9 Commencement ceremony in Kenan Stadium that finding a voice, both in writing and in life, is crucial to being heard.

"For your ideas to be accepted, for your arguments to be believed, for your accomplishments to be appreciated, for your work to be admired, you must find a voice," he said.

In life, a voice is much more than the sound a person makes, he said. "The voice of hope, the voice of compassion, the voice of the future, the voice of his generation, the voice of her people," Grisham said.

"We hear this all the time. Voices, not words."

He outlined the three elements of voice as clarity, authenticity and veracity.

"Each of you is an original. Each of you has a distinctive voice," Grisham said. "When you find it, your story will be told. You will be heard. The size of your audience doesn't matter. What is important is that your audience is listening."

For the full text of Grisham's speech, refer to [uncnews.unc.edu/content/view/3620/68](http://uncnews.unc.edu/content/view/3620/68).

See COMMENCEMENT page 6

## University will end coal use on campus by May 2020

With the national director of the Sierra Club's coal campaign on hand to endorse the decision, Chancellor Holden Thorp has announced that the University will end its use of coal in the next decade.

"Universities must lead the transition away from fossil fuels to clean energy," Thorp said at the May 4 news conference. "Today, Carolina takes another big step in that direction."

Thorp, who spoke from the green rooftop of the

Rams Head Plaza, within sight of the solar panels atop Morrison Residence Hall, said he expected Carolina's decision to help guide other campuses.

"We are in an unusual position because our cogeneration plant has a useful life of another 30 to 40 years," he said. "It's not going to be easy to make this transition. We have challenges in making sure biomass will work in our existing boilers and challenges on the supply side as well. But we are confident we can achieve our goal in 10 years."

As a step toward ending coal use, the cogeneration facility will test co-firing coal with biomass in the form of dried wood pellets later this spring and torrefied wood — a product similar to charcoal — this fall or winter. The University plans to replace 20 percent of its coal with biomass no later than 2015, and perhaps by 2012.

The 2020 date for ending coal usage was one

See COAL page 2

## ON THE WEB



BIT.LY/CZBLOW

## 'FUN BUS DRIVER' IS WRITING A BOOK

A Daily Tar Heel story profiles Benjy Downing, the Point-to-Point driver who is known on campus for his shuttle lights and music. After three years on the job, Downing, also a master of school administration student, has gathered enough tales of the campus to write a book, and that's what he plans to do.



BIT.LY/AAN09L

## WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE COLOR?

Philip N. Cohen, associate professor of sociology, poses one of the most innocuous questions that every school kid can answer: What's your favorite color? Take the quick survey and see if making the choice is just as easy as you remember it.



BIT.LY/ASBY1C

## DENTAL STUDENT FORMS NEPAL-BOUND HEALTH TEAM

When dental student Shenan Bradshaw traveled to Nepal last summer, she couldn't have imagined that she would return a year later — and with a School of Dentistry team she had organized. The Nepal Project team leaves for Kathmandu in mid-July.

## COAL from page 1

of six interim recommendations submitted to Thorp on April 29 by the Energy Task Force he appointed in January to study energy issues on campus. Thorp accepted all of the group's recommendations to:

- End all use of coal on campus by May 1, 2020;
- Accelerate conversion from coal to a cleaner fuel or fuel mix;
- Source biomass, if used, from certified "sustainably managed" forests, as determined by third-party verification;
- Make best efforts to identify and secure coal that is certified by a third party and sourced from deep mines only;
- Optimize use of natural gas as supplies and costs warrant; and
- Undertake periodic reviews of the potential for solar thermal and solar photovoltaic system installations.

"UNC has made a decision today to lead by example," said Bruce Nilles, who oversees the Sierra Club's Beyond Coal campaign,


which targeted the University and 59 other campuses still powered by coal. "Although we'd love to see coal use end today, we applaud UNC for agreeing to a firm deadline."

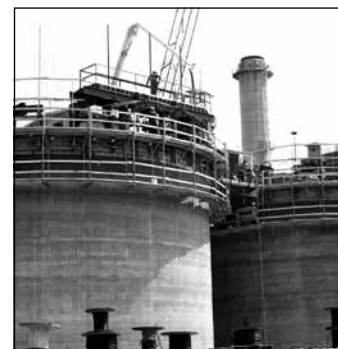
Tim Toben, who also chairs the N.C. Energy Policy Council, leads the task force.

"Carolina's cogeneration facility is one of the cleanest-burning, most efficient coal plants in the country and has won national awards for efficiency from the Environmental Protection Agency," Toben said. "But it still burns coal, and that must end to avoid contributing to the worst effects of global climate change. And unless you

set a deadline for ending coal usage, you're not going to get to it."

For the complete text of the task force report, refer to [bit.ly/afxxRE](http://bit.ly/afxxRE). The interim recommendations deal with Carolina's energy supply.

The group will next turn its attention to improving energy efficiency in buildings, making its final recommendations in September. 



Twin coal silos, constructed in 2002 near the cogeneration facility, hold 10,000 tons of coal.

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## Faculty members receive Guggenheim fellowships

Guggenheim fellowships supporting research and artistic creation have been awarded to three Carolina faculty members. The John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, based in New York City, appoints fellows based on "stellar achievement and exceptional promise for continued accomplishment."

This year's recipients, all in the College of Arts and Sciences, are Bernard L. Herman, George B. Tindall Distinguished Professor of American Studies and Folklore; Louise McReynolds, professor of history; and Mary D. Sheriff, W.R. Kenan Jr. Professor of Art History and department chair.

The foundation's 2010 winners include 180 artists, scientists and scholars, selected from about 3,000 applicants. In all, 59 disciplines and 65 academic institutions are represented.

Scores of Nobel, Pulitzer and other prizewinners are fellowship alumni. Since its establishment in 1925, the foundation has granted more than \$281 million in fellowships to more than 16,900 individuals.

## HERMAN

Herman works with students on hands-on research projects leading to public engagement and teaches courses on visual and material culture, contemporary craft and traditional arts, writing material culture, Southern studies, architectural history, folk life and objects in everyday life.

His books include "Architecture and Rural Life in Central Delaware 1700-1900," "The Stolen House" and "Town House: Architecture and



HERMAN



MCREYNOLDS



SHERIFF

Material Life in the Early American City, 1760-1830," each of which received the Abbott Lowell Cummings Award. The focus of his award is "Troublesome Things in the Borderlands of Contemporary Art."

## MCREYNOLDS


McReynolds researches imperial Russia, popular culture and cultural studies. She is a member of the editorial

board of the Journal of Modern History and has written extensively in the field.

Her most recent book was "Russia at Play: Leisure Activities at the End of the Tsarist Era," and she currently is working on a book on sensational murder in late imperial Russia, exploring the limits of positive law. The focus of her award is "True Crime and Punishment in Imperial Russia."

## SHERIFF

Sheriff studies 18th- and 19th-century French art and culture, with a particular interest in issues of creativity, sexuality, gender, and travel and cultural exchange. Among the courses she teaches are graduate seminars focusing on the 18th century and undergraduate courses on 18th-century art, a language-across-the-curriculum course and a first-year seminar on representing nature.

Sheriff currently is editing "Cultural Contact and the Making of European Art 1500-1930" for UNC Press. The focus of her award is "Picturing the Allure of Conquest in 18th-Century France." 

# IAH Chairs Leadership Program helps flatten learning curve

Jan Bardsley has taught Japanese language and literature in the Department of Asian Studies since 1994.

But when she became chair of the department last fall, she felt an exhilarating sense of newness, coupled with the daunting question: What do I do now? She felt that same mixture of excitement and fear as a teacher standing in front of a class for the first time, she said.

"The biggest surprise for me this first year has been how absolutely interesting it has been, even with all its problems and the ups and downs," she said. "Just like a new teacher, the learning curve for new chairs their first year is very steep, and every single day you are learning something new. One day is a success, the next day is a failure, but over time you get better."

That process of getting better has been made easier, thanks to the Chairs Leadership Program (CLP), created for newly appointed and reappointed chairs to explore lessons they can learn from one another.

The College of Arts and Sciences started the program in 2007–08 in collaboration with the Institute for the Arts and Humanities, and it is modeled after the IAH Academic Leadership

Program begun five years before.

Two of the main architects of the program are Bill Balthrop (at right), former long-time chair of the Department of Communication Studies who has served as the associate director of the program since its inception, and Bill Andrews, associate dean for fine arts and humanities in the College of Arts and Sciences.

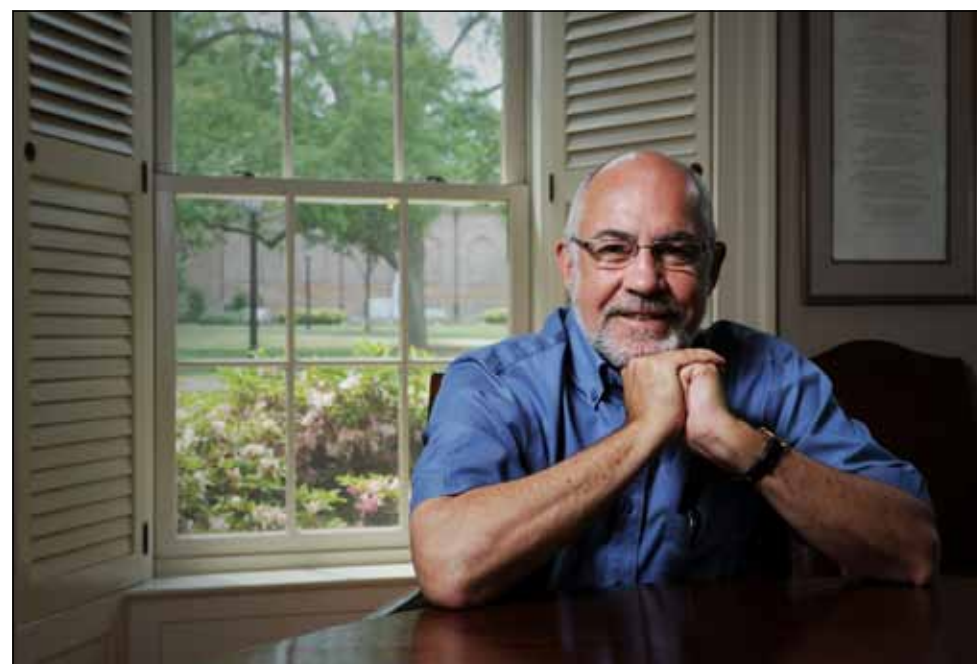
When he first became department chair in 1991, Balthrop said, training consisted of four hours of briefings concentrated mostly on legal, procedural and personnel issues.

But chairs were on their own when it came to making judgment calls on the wide range of decisions not covered in a rulebook. Even worse, they were not the kind of decisions chairs could discuss with anyone else in the department.

Andrews described that process as hit or miss.

"Some departments would help new chairs learn the ropes, but you could never be sure what they were learning and when they would learn it, or how much of a mentoring relationship they would have with the previous chair or with anybody," Andrews said.

What was needed, both men believed,



was a place where chairs could talk freely about the sensitive issues they faced within a confidential setting.

For new chairs in the CLP, that place is the conference room in Hyde Hall.

Balthrop said his role in the monthly meetings is to initiate discussion when needed and

to make sure everyone gets a chance to participate. He also tries to make sure that issues raised at previous meetings are revisited to see if they have been resolved.

At the same time, Andrews said, the

See LEADERSHIP page 7

## AN IDEA TAKES ROOT FOR A COMMUNITY GARDEN TO HELP THOSE IN NEED

Good ideas often grow out of bad times.

One sprang into existence in early 2009 during a discussion of Carolina Center for Public Service leaders and supporters as they explored ways to help low-paid University employees.

They talked at first about the Employee Forum's efforts to create a food bank. That inspired Alice Ammerman a professor in the Department of Nutrition in the Gillings School of Global Public Health, to make another suggestion.

We should grow a community garden, Ammerman told the group.

That prompted Lynn Blanchard, the director of the Center for Public Service, to suggest the vacant field owned by the University directly across from the center on Wilson Street as a possible site.

Claire Lorch, who at the time was associate director of the center, liked the idea so much that she refused to let it drop even after she left her position at the center last summer.

And during the weekend of March 20–21, the official start of spring, Lorch joined some 75 staff members, students, faculty members and neighbors to create 25 plant beds for what is now known as the Carolina Campus Community Garden.

Lorch gave Employee Forum members an overview of the garden's progress on May 5.

The mission of the garden, she said, is to provide "the space and support to grow vegetables and fruit so that all employees have access to fresh produce" and to "foster a community among staff, students, faculty and the local residents."

Lorch said the idea for the garden won immediate support from forum Chair Tommy Griffin. The forum also spearheaded a campus survey last August to gauge the level of interest and support for the idea of a campus garden.

Out of some 1,200 employees who responded, 97 percent said they supported moving forward with the idea, Lorch said.

That survey helped make the case to the University for the Wilson Street property to be used, on a temporary basis, for the garden. It also cleared the way for the garden to win a \$7,500 grant from Strowd Roses Inc., a nonprofit foundation supporting the communities of Chapel Hill and Carrboro. The money was used to create Lorch's part-time position as garden coordinator, which is administered through the North Carolina Botanical Garden.

Lorch said a class of public policy students was enlisted to explore possible models for distributing the food. The final model has yet to be selected.

"Whatever distribution system we settle on will seek to make sure none of the food goes to waste and it gets into the hands of people who need it most," she said.


To learn more about the project and how to be involved, refer to [bit.ly/bFS0Cg](http://bit.ly/bFS0Cg).

In other matters, Brenda Malone, vice chancellor for human resources, recognized Matt Banks for his 15 years of service as the forum's administrative support specialist.

Malone described Banks as the go-to person for the forum and called him a "gem to work with."

Banks said he viewed his job as an opportunity to work with volunteers who are dedicated not only to making their respective units better, but also to helping the entire University. Many of the suggestions the forum has advanced have been replicated throughout the UNC system, he said.

"I have really been pleased to work with you all, and I am grateful," Banks said.

The forum also named Koyah Rivera, with the N.C. Health Careers Access Program, to serve as the forum's representative to the Advisory Committee on Transportation, which will meet later this month. 

# Seven are honored for campus, community support of diversity

Seven people or groups received the 2010 University Diversity Award recognizing significant contribution to the enhancement, support and furtherance of diversity on the Carolina campus and in the community. The awards, sponsored by the Office of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs and Student Government, were presented during an April 27 reception at the Johnston Center for Undergraduate Excellence.

Carla White-Harris, director of recruitment and diversity in the Eshelman School of Pharmacy, received the faculty award for her efforts to champion diversity, not only in the pharmacy school but also throughout the University. More than a job, this is her

lifelong mission, one nominator said.

White-Harris advises a group of more than 100 student ambassadors who work to recruit a diverse student body from across the country, and she regularly travels to underserved, under-represented areas to explain the importance of higher education in general, and pharmacy specifically.

A faculty mentor for the Student National Pharmaceutical Association, White-Harris "is able to reach so many students because she opens her heart to them," another nominator said.

Brenda Siler, office administrator for the Equal Opportunity/ADA Office, received the staff award for her passion, commitment

to excellence and work ethic in supporting equal opportunity and diversity at Carolina. Among her job duties, she helps monitor the composition of search committees for diversity and advises campus departments about the recruitment or application process.

Siler was cited for her institutional memory of policies and practices, which was instrumental during the design of the EPA RecruitmentWeb process, a nominator said. "Her attention to detail is exceptional and has made her an excellent resource and subject matter expert in this vital role," the person said. Siler's ability to instill her commitment to excellence in people who interact with the office benefits Carolina as a whole, he added.

The Department of Housing and Residential Education in the Division of Student Affairs was recognized for its steadfast commitment to advancing the principles of multiculturalism and the appreciation of differences among people and cultures.

"For years, the DHRE has been in the

forefront on diversity issues," a nominator said. Its programs are geared for a community of more than 8,500 students. DHRE trains both students and staff to understand how their own identities and cultural norms influence their behaviors and attitudes. People also are encouraged to find ways to actively engage with communities outside their own, often in situations outside their comfort zones.

Among its initiatives, DHRE has a variety of living/learning programs, including Unitas, Men@Carolina, Women Experiencing Leadership and Learning, the Religion as Exploratory Learning Integrated Community, and the Chinese and Spanish language houses.

Awards also went to:

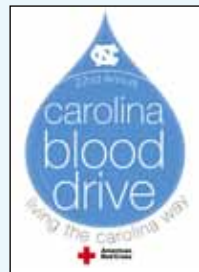
- Rose Brannon, a doctoral student in biomedical sciences in the School of Medicine, for her work to enhance diversity

See DIVERSITY page 11

## DUBOSE INSPIRES VOLUNTEERISM BY HER EXAMPLE

### 2010 CAROLINA BLOOD DRIVE

Volunteers as well as donors are needed for the success of the blood drive, to be held June 8 from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Smith Center. Register for both roles online, [www.unc.edu/blood](http://www.unc.edu/blood), or call 96-BLOOD (962-5663).



Also needed are automated red cell donations, in which donors give double the number of red blood cells but receive their platelets, plasma and fluids back. Refer to the Web site for information.

The Web site also includes details about the free parking at the Smith Center during the drive and the door prizes that will be given away. Everyone involved with the event will receive a 22nd anniversary T-shirt, donated by UNC Student Stores and the American Red Cross. In addition, there will be drawings during the day that will include tickets for football, men's basketball and women's basketball games.

Whether recruiting, managing the snacks, driving a golf cart or serving as floor manager, Pinkey DuBose has been at the heart of the Carolina Blood Drive each of the last 21 years.

And the 22nd will be no different. When the drive kicks off on June 8, DuBose will be running the court at the Smith Center as floor manager, training volunteers, making sure every donor has an escort to the canteen and serving as all-around troubleshooter.

With a month to go before the drive, DuBose's main goal now is to help "people get excited about what we do," as she encourages the UNC community to participate, both as drive volunteers and as donors (see box at left). The goal this year is 1,060 units, and as the American Red Cross emphasizes, "The need is constant. The gratification is instant."

Katrina Coble, chair of the blood drive and business manager of the computer science department, said of DuBose, "Her wonderful personality and expectations of others motivate her volunteers in the donor area to care specifically for each donor post-donation. She truly understands the mission of public service."

The DuBose name is well known on campus because she spent 30 years working at the University — the last 18 as business manager at the Health Sciences Library. During that time, she served as president of the University Manager's Association and was a Chancellor's Award winner in 2001, the year she retired.

Now DuBose works part-time with UNC Health Care's nurse employment office. The blood drive gives her the chance to see the people she's known and worked with on campus and to watch the University community come together to help others — and to have some fun in the process, she said.


The DuBose name is also a familiar one because Pinkey's husband, Ray, is director of Energy Services. He said Pinkey has inspired him and their sons to participate in her many causes, including her volunteer work at the Ronald McDonald House.

In 1994, DuBose recruited Freda McClain, the Health Sciences Library's human resources manager, to be a blood drive volunteer. McClain counts herself one among many who consider DuBose to be a caring mentor and friend who was instrumental in providing staff development and training. "I've always appreciated her support and guidance," McClain said.



Anne Webb, the nursing school's development officer, describes DuBose as having "that most ideal of volunteer characteristics: She can take complete chaos and turn it into order. She sees a problem and immediately generates solutions. Seeing Pinkey every year is actually a draw for blood donors!"

Coble said DuBose had taught her, by example, the significance of "bringing people together for a common service goal for our great university." Coble summed up DuBose's many contributions succinctly: "Pinkey is simply the best."

To meet many of the inspiring blood drive volunteers, including DuBose and Coble, become a part of this year's event. To sign up online, both to volunteer and to make a donation, refer to [www.unc.edu/blood](http://www.unc.edu/blood), or call 96-BLOOD (962-5663). 

# NEWS Faculty/Staff



## Pisano recognized for the role of women in academics and science

**E**tta Pisano, vice dean for academic affairs and Kenan Professor of Radiology and Biomedical Engineering in the School of Medicine, and director of both the Biomedical Research Imaging Center and the UNC Translational and Clinical Science Institute, has won the 2010 Mary Turner Lane Award.

Established in 1986, the award recognizes people who make outstanding contributions to the lives of women students, faculty, staff and administrators at Carolina. It is named after Mary Turner Lane, founding director of the Curriculum in Women's Studies and the first recipient of the award.

The University's Association for Women Faculty and Professionals (AWFP) presented the award April 29 at the group's annual banquet.

Pisano, who is known internationally for her research in breast imaging, was described by one nominator as "the epitome of the successful woman clinician-scientist, mentor, teacher and engaged community participant."

Throughout her 20-year career at Carolina, Pisano has demonstrated a commitment to enhance women's health. Her work

demonstrating the efficacy of digital technology for breast cancer screening has led to improvements in the accuracy of mammography and breast cancer diagnosis.

She has directed 16 postgraduate education courses on breast imaging for radiologists, medical physicists and technologists, a nominator said, and she has mentored countless medical students, radiology and internal medicine residents, breast imaging fellows and graduate students in biomedical engineering, physics and public health. Informally, she has served as an adviser to many junior medical school faculty.

Pisano has held leadership positions in many University and national professional organizations, including chairing the UNC Committee on the Status of Women and serving as president of the Association of University Radiologists. Last year, Pisano was chosen to receive the UNC Advancement of Women Award.


She has been actively involved in community service and was instrumental in developing the University's Working on Women in Science initiative to enhance recruitment, retention and promotion of women faculty.

"Her service in University and school

committees has often been focused on advancing the position of women at UNC specifically, and in academics generally," a nominator said. "She continues to be an exceptional presence, both on campus and nationally for the role of women in academics and in science."

Anne Whisnant, this year's president of AWFP, said the organization felt it was important to honor Pisano as she prepares to leave Carolina, both because of Pisano's staunch support of AWFP and to reinforce the importance of attracting and retaining respected, capable women in leadership positions.

"Through consistent and deep involvement in University-wide committees, Etta has been the epitome of a 'faculty patriot' — someone who has looked beyond her own interests and immediate realm and has led a number of significant efforts to bring structural changes that address ongoing problems faced by women across our campus," Whisnant said.

On July 1, Pisano will become dean of the College of Medicine and vice president for medical affairs at the Medical University of South Carolina. 

## Stamm to serve as interim dean of dental school

John Stamm, who served as dean of the School of Dentistry from 1989 to 2004, will become interim dean of the school beginning May 25.



STAMM

Last summer, John N. Williams, dean since 2005, announced his plans to leave at the end of his term on June 30. Williams will become dean of the Indiana University School of Dentistry.

A search committee led by Barbara Rimer, dean of the Gillings School of Global Public Health, will continue its work to identify leading candidates for the position.

This year, the committee put forward the names of three candidates for final consideration. Chancellor Holden Thorp and Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost Bruce Carney were unsuccessful in hiring the finalist recommended by the committee and other school constituencies, Carney announced late last month.

Because of the short time remaining for Williams to be at Carolina, Carney asked Stamm to take over on an interim basis.

"As you all know, Dr. Stamm has been a distinguished leader in the profession and in

See STAMM page 11

## HONORS

THOMAS CAMPANELLA, associate professor of city and regional planning, and ELIZABETH ROBINSON, a graduate student in classics, have been named 2010-11 fellows of the American Academy in Rome. Campanella received the Katherine Edwards Gordon Rome Prize in the design category; Robinson received the Irene Rosenzweig/Samuel H. Kress Foundation Pre-Doctoral Rome Prize in the ancient studies category.

The APPLES Service-Learning Program recently announced recipients of the 2010 Ueltschi Service-Learning Course Development Grants. Eight recipients were selected to develop innovative service-learning courses for undergraduate students.

Recipients are: KYLE CROWDER, Department of Sociology;


MALINDA MAYNOR LOWERY, Department of History; CHRIS SHEA, Department of Health Policy and Management; GEETHA VAIDYANATHAN, Department of Economics; ANNE WHISNANT, Department of History; LAUREN CAMERON, Department of English and Comparative Literature; CHRISTINA HARLAN, Gillings School of Global Public Health and School of Nursing; and ALEXIS SILVER, Department of Sociology.

SHARON RITCHIE, senior scientist at FPG Child Development Institute, was one of five new early childhood experts recently elected to the National Association for the Education of Young Children Governing Board.

Founded in 1926, the association is the largest professional

organization for early care and education in the United States.

GARY MARKS, Burton Craige Professor of Political Science and founding director of the Center for European Studies, has received a Humboldt Research Award from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. Humboldt prize winners are invited to spend up to one year cooperating on a long-term research project with German colleagues.

GITA SHARMA, associate professor of nutrition, has received the Silver Medal from the United Kingdom's Nutrition Society. Sharma will accept her award and present the Silver Medal lecture at the society's June meeting in Edinburgh, Scotland. 

# Commencement 2010



▲ Many of the exuberant graduates take the opportunity to thank their mothers, particularly since Carolina's Commencement traditionally falls on Mother's Day.

▼ Barbara Gitenstein, president of The College of New Jersey, addresses the crowd during the May 8 doctoral hooding ceremony in the Smith Center.



▲ The Clef Hangers men's a cappella group is joined by Thorp, center, as they sing "Carolina in my Mind."

▲ Chancellor Holden Thorp, right, and UNC President Erskine Bowles lead the platform party procession for the May 9 Commencement ceremony in Kenan Stadium.



▲ Doctoral candidate Tricia Wright receives her hood during the May 8 doctoral hooding ceremony.

► Doctoral candidates and their advisers sing the Alma Mater at the conclusion of the ceremony in the Smith Center.



▼ The University's newest graduates prepare to turn their tassels, officially marking the milestone.



## COMMENCEMENT from page 1

Commencement weekend celebrated the more than 5,630 students who completed their degrees, including an estimated 3,347 bachelor's degrees, 1,397 master's degrees, 262 doctoral and 624 professional degrees (from the schools of dentistry, law, medicine, nursing and pharmacy).

This year's graduating class included seven students who, along with one student who

graduated in December, were the first students to complete the requirements for Carolina's joint degree program with the National University of Singapore and earn degrees through the program.

See [uncnews.unc.edu/content/view/3621/1](http://uncnews.unc.edu/content/view/3621/1) for a slide show commemorating the weekend and a video of Grisham's speech.

## DOCTORAL HOODING CEREMONY

Veteran college administrator Barbara Gitenstein, president of The College of

New Jersey, addressed the crowd during the May 8 doctoral hooding ceremony in the Smith Center.

During the ceremony, the 2010 Faculty Award for Excellence in Doctoral Mentoring was presented to Gary Marchionini, dean and Boshamer Distinguished Professor in the School of Information and Library Science. Established in 2006, the faculty award recognizes extraordinary performance and achievement in the mentoring of doctoral students.

Marchionini was recognized for his belief that strong mentoring creates future leaders and scholars and can change the trajectory of a field.

"He has perfected the ability to work across disciplines with students having varied research interests and career goals, ensuring their unique development into stellar scholars," one nominator said.

"The successes of his students enhance the standing not only of SILS, but of UNC-Chapel Hill." □

## 'Aphasia' recounts one man's struggle to relearn how to speak and understand



From left, actor Michael Mattison, producer/director of photography Chuck Bludsworth, actor Carl McIntyre and writer/director/producer Jim Gloster respond to audience questions following the May 1 premiere of the film "Aphasia," which depicts McIntyre's struggle to recover after a stroke left him with a communication disorder. The film was aired as part of the University's Division of Speech and Hearing Sciences' 40th anniversary celebration.

Imagine waking up and discovering that everyone around you has started speaking gibberish, that written words have been transformed into meaningless collections of letters. And when you try to ask what's going on, all that comes out of your own mouth are unintelligible sounds.

That's the reality that Charlotte actor Carl McIntyre faced in 2005 when, at age 44, he suffered a massive stroke that left him with aphasia, an acquired communication disorder that impairs a person's ability to process language, but does not affect intelligence.

On May 1, as part of the Division of Speech and Hearing Sciences' 40th anniversary celebration, more than 200 alumni, students and friends of the division attended the world premiere of the short film "Aphasia" and became the first to experience the dramatic portrayal of McIntyre's struggle to recover and redefine his life.

McIntyre stars as himself in the 40-minute film, the result of a collaboration between the speech and hearing sciences division and Little Word Films, a production company formed by members of the Charlotte film community to support the endeavor.

Prior to his stroke, McIntyre was a successful film, television and stage actor, but the language difficulties resulting from aphasia became an obvious obstacle to that career. His determination to make the most of his recovery brought him to UNC, where he enrolled in the Life Interests and Values (LIV) project.

The purpose of the LIV project, under the direction of Associate Professor Katarina Haley, is to support self-determination in people with aphasia by enabling them to set and pursue meaningful personal goals for their recovery.

Of the life goals McIntyre set, the foremost was returning to acting. Through intensive work with speech-language pathologist Denise Caignon, presentations to graduate and undergraduate students and a series of conversations about how he might use drama to tell his story, McIntyre pursued this increasingly realistic goal. His resolve ultimately led to the idea for the film.

Told from McIntyre's perspective, "Aphasia" chronicles the first few terrifying moments after the stroke, his exhaustive and frustrating efforts to relearn simple words, the impact his condition has on his wife, children and friends, and his sometimes humorous, sometimes painful encounters with a world that doesn't understand why he can't just say what he means.

The film was written and directed by McIntyre's close friend Jim Gloster, who joined with several other film professionals to form Little Word Films. More than 100 individuals donated to the production, which relied on more than 170 members of the Charlotte film community who volunteered their time as crew, cast and extras for the eight-day shoot.

Gloster said he hoped the film would raise awareness about aphasia and provide inspiration to stroke survivors and their families.

According to the National Aphasia Association's Web site, aphasia affects about 1 million Americans, or 1 in 250 people,

and is more common than Parkinson's Disease, cerebral palsy or muscular dystrophy, yet many people have never heard of the disorder.

"Aphasia" was screened at the Medical Biomolecular Research Building using a high-definition projector system provided by the Whitlock Group and Digital Projection Inc.

Following the premiere, which drew a standing ovation from the crowd, McIntyre, Gloster and other members of the crew had an interactive discussion with the audience, including people with aphasia and their family members and friends who are affiliated with Carolina's Center for Aphasia and Related Disorders.

"Aphasia" had its second screening in Charlotte earlier this week. Now, McIntyre, the production team and the Division of Speech and Hearing Sciences plan to show the film in a variety of local and national venues as a way to disseminate information about aphasia to health-care professionals, students and the general public.

"This film is a truly innovative way to introduce people to aphasia and help them better understand the effect it has on people's lives," said Haley, the LIV director. "The first-person perspective Carl provides is incredibly moving. Anyone who views the film will walk away with a lot to think about."

To learn more about the Carl McIntyre Aphasia Project, refer to [www.aphasiathemovie.com](http://www.aphasiathemovie.com). For information about the Center for Aphasia and Related Disorders, contact Katarina Haley at [katarina\\_haley@med.unc.edu](mailto:katarina_haley@med.unc.edu).

### LEADERSHIP from page 3

program takes into account the fact that the responsibilities of being chair have grown in complexity.

"Fifteen or 20 years ago, department chairs were not expected to be fundraisers, and relationships with alumni were pretty attenuated," Andrews said.

Now, fundraising is an expected part of the job, and building relationships with alumni who can be called upon to support the department can be key, he said.

While faculty members have always moved from one university to the next to advance their careers, the competition among universities

for the best faculty has grown intense.

One of the challenges for chairs is how much money to offer a faculty member after he or she has received an outsider offer, or in some cases, when to offer a valuable faculty member more money to thwart outsider offers in the future.

Each of those decisions comes with risk and ethical dilemmas.

Balthrop said the CLP discussions are not geared toward delivering the right answer as much as gathering a multitude of perspectives.

He credits Andrews for insisting that each group in the program include a mix of experienced chairs so they can share their experiences in handling situations that the new chairs face for the first time.

Among that group of veterans is Steven Matson, former chair of the biology department, now dean of the Graduate School, who believes the group serves as an invaluable sounding board in which everyone can take away something useful, whatever their level of experience.

When he became chair in 2002, Matson said, he knew he was on his own. Thanks to the CLP, that is no longer the case.

"You can never predict what kind of experience a new chair is going to have, but having this group available and becoming a part of it creates greater potential for the experience to be rewarding," Matson said.

"I think it helps to give incoming chairs a greater sense of confidence just knowing there

is a place for them to go."

Bardsley said the chairs program is designed to let participants enter into an open-ended discussion that forces them to examine a problem from a big-picture perspective.

Ultimately, she has learned that strategies may vary, but the goal of any chair is to help his or her faculty members accomplish the goals they have defined for themselves.

"Just as a teacher becomes more adept and begins to trust his students more and more, the same thing is true as a department chair," Bardsley said.

"You begin to trust everybody else you are working with, and you get a sense you can rely on them — and you are not as alone as you think."

# IN BRIEF News



WALLACE

## WALLACE TO TALK ABOUT 'A WRITER'S LIFE'

Best-selling author, writer and illustrator Daniel Wallace will speak on May 20 at the Robert and Pearl Seymour Center, with the theme "A Writer's Life: What's Behind the Curtain." Among other books, Wallace, the J. Ross MacDonald Distinguished Professor of English and Comparative Literature, is

the author of "Big Fish," released as a film in 2003.

The lecture, free and open to the public, will begin at 2:30 p.m. The center is located at 2551 Homestead Rd. in Chapel Hill. Call 968-2070 for more information.

## NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Every spring, members of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences have the opportunity to nominate their peers for membership in the academy. Current members only may make nominations.

To propose a colleague for nomination, contact a relevant member of the academy, normally one who is in the same scientific or scholarly field — or in a closely related field. Refer to [bit.ly/dgSljm](http://bit.ly/dgSljm) for a list of academy members at Carolina.

If the proper discipline is not represented on campus, contact Jo Ann Gustafson (962-1319 or [joann\\_gustafson@unc.edu](mailto:joann_gustafson@unc.edu)) for help in finding a sponsor.

To help academy members avoid the work of preparing duplicate nominations, before suggesting a nominee, contact Tony Waldrop (962-1319 or [twaldrop@unc.edu](mailto:twaldrop@unc.edu)) prior to May 26.

## HEALTH AND FITNESS FAIR MAY 14

The UNC Wellness Committee will celebrate Employee Health and Fitness Day with the second year of "Get Active Carolina," a promotion of the University's health and fitness resources. The fair will be held — rain or shine — on May 14 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Rams Head Recreation Center.

Numerous vendors and information will be on hand, and employees will be eligible for giveaways and door prizes.

## MINORITY HEALTH VIDEOCONFERENCE SET FOR JUNE 8

The 16th Annual Summer Public Health Research Videoconference on Minority Health will be held June 8 from 1:30 to 4 p.m., with the topic "What Will Health Care Reform Mean for Minority Health Disparities?"

Howard Lee, executive director of the N.C. Education Cabinet, will moderate the meeting. Participants will include Mayra Alvarez, legislative assistant to U.S. Sen. Richard Durbin; Ralph Forquera, executive director of Seattle Indian Health Board and a clinical assistant professor with the University of Washington; and Tony Whitehead, professor of medical anthropology and founding director of Cultural Systems Analysis Group at the University of Maryland.

The interactive session will be broadcast with a live audience in the auditorium of the Tate-Turner-Kuralt Building and also will be streamed over the Internet. Questions will be taken from broadcast participants by e-mail and toll-free telephone.

Refer to [www.minority.unc.edu/institute/2010](http://www.minority.unc.edu/institute/2010).



WALKERS AND RUNNERS head out on foot May 7 as they participate in Campus Recreation's annual Spring Fling.

## GRANTS HELP PLAYMAKERS BUILD OUTREACH PROGRAMS

A National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) grant of \$40,000 will support PlayMakers Repertory Company's 2011 musical production of "Big River: The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn."

In conjunction with "Big River," PlayMakers will launch an outreach program, "Southern Voices: Exploring the History of the American South through Stage and Literature," looking at issues of race, class and religion in the American South through the storytelling tradition of Mark Twain with accompanying community events.

Another grant from NEA and Arts Midwest of \$25,000 will support educational programs for PlayMakers' 2010-11 opening mainstage production, "As You Like It." It will be part of the "Shakespeare for a New Generation" program.

Through the program, PlayMakers will be able to provide free tickets to educational matinees for students and their teachers from schools in the Triangle and surrounding counties. PlayMakers also will create and distribute study guides and other learning materials, send teaching artists into schools and host a two-day teacher in-service event in collaboration with the Program in the Humanities and Human Values.

## FRIDAY CENTER HOSTS PAPER-HAND MUSICAL ON MAY 21

Paperhand Puppet Intervention will bring its new musical "Esther" to the Friday Center on May 21 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets, sold in advance, are \$16, and \$18 at the door. For more information about the group founded by Donovan Zimmerman and Jan Burger, see [www.paperhand.org](http://www.paperhand.org).

## CAROLINA PERFORMING ARTS ADJUSTS ITS 2010-11 SEASON

Carolina Performing Arts has adjusted its 2010-11 season with the following additions, cancellations and revisions:

- The performance by the Chick Corea Trio has been rescheduled for Sept. 24;
  - The performance by fiddler Carrie Rodriguez and cellist Benn Sollee will move to Nov. 17;
  - The National Theatre of Scotland's "Black Watch" performance has been rescheduled for Feb. 12.
  - Handspring Puppet Company's "Woyzeck on the Highveld" has been added to the lineup and will perform April 1-2; and
  - Tony Allen's Afrobeat Orchestra (shown below) will perform April 19, replacing the Anouhka Shankar Project;
- All performances will be in Memorial Hall. For more information about the 2010-11 season, visit [www.carolinaperformingarts.org](http://www.carolinaperformingarts.org).



## ACKLAND RECEIVES EXTRAORDINARY GIFT OF ART

Museums rely on the generosity of donors and the Tyche Foundation gift represents one of the most significant contributions in the history of the Ackland Art Museum. This collection of 51 works of art will be unveiled in the special exhibition “Fortune Smiles: The Tyche Foundation Gift” that opens May 23 and will run through Aug. 31. These works of art add new depth to the Ackland Collection. Accompanying the exhibition is an illustrated catalog featuring art historical commentary on each piece, as well as nine original works of fiction by author Allan Gurganus written in response to selected pieces.

Named for the Greek goddess of fortune, the Tyche Foundation was founded by former Ackland director Charles Millard after a serendipitous and dramatic encounter with a mysterious work of art. For years, Millard kept a small sculpture that he had purchased at auction on a coffee table in his home. He knew little about the object’s history or creator. By happenstance, an article

about the sale of a similar piece piqued his curiosity, and, to his surprise, his own sculpture was soon identified as a valuable and highly sought after work of art.

Instead of simply gifting this one piece to the Ackland, Millard opted to sell it and take the proceeds to establish a foundation with the goal of acquiring multiple works.

Distinguished by its impressive diversity, the Tyche Foundation gift includes drawings, paintings, prints, sculpture, calligraphy and photographs. When viewed as a whole, the collection encompasses a wide stylistic range. [bit.ly/98J3bx](http://bit.ly/98J3bx)

### RELATED PROGRAMMING

On May 23, Charles Millard and Allan Gurganus will hold a public conversation at Hyde Hall at 1 p.m., titled “The Art of Collecting and Telling Tales.” A catalog signing and reception will follow.



From left, the following works of art from the Tyche Foundation are part of the Ackland exhibit (shown in detail): “Head of a Goddess,” unidentified artist, Greece; “Madame de Villeneuve-Flayosc,” by Jean-Louis Le Barbier Le Jeune, French; “The Gypsies,” by Édouard Manet, French; and “Prince Dara-Shikoh and Mullah Shah, Accompanied by Five Retainers, in Kashmir,” by Jalal Quli, Indian, Mughal.

### PLANNING LIBRARY TO RELOCATE JULY 12

The collections and staff of the F. Stuart Chapin Jr. Planning Library will relocate to Davis Library on July 12.

To prepare for this move, the Chapin Planning Library has closed to the public. Until July 12, planning library materials may be paged for use through the “Request” feature of the online catalog or by placing a request at the service desk of any other campus library.

Most materials will be unavailable for three to five days beginning July 12.

For information, contact Jen Doty, city and regional planning librarian ([jdoty@email.unc.edu](mailto:jdoty@email.unc.edu) or 962-4770) or refer to [www.library.unc.edu](http://www.library.unc.edu).

### STEAM TUNNEL WORK, RESURFACING TO AFFECT CAMPUS ROADS

Drivers can expect traffic congestion and delays along South Columbia Street between South Road and Cameron Avenue this summer. Two lanes north of South Road have been

closed through mid-August as steam tunnel work continues. The Department of Public Safety advises motorists to plan for delays or to consider alternate routes.

Motorists also can expect congestion and delays because of diverted traffic along eastbound Manning Drive and South Road, especially during afternoon peak driving times.

In addition, South Columbia Street between Cameron Avenue and Franklin Street will be resurfaced this summer. Two lanes will be closed during that time for safety reasons. Paving will take place during evening and overnight hours and should not affect daytime traffic significantly.

Refer to [www.dps.unc.edu](http://www.dps.unc.edu) to see a map of the affected areas.


### EVENT WILL SHOWCASE CAPABILITIES OF MICROBIOME CORE FACILITY

The First UNC Microbiome Research Symposium, “Host-Associated Microbial Communities in Health and Disease,” will be held June 2 at the Medical Biomolecular Research Building in the auditorium and second floor atrium.

Registration is free, but required. Register by May 20 to

[yvonne\\_cooper@med.unc.edu](mailto:yvonne_cooper@med.unc.edu) or visit [bit.ly/cvzzyZ](http://bit.ly/cvzzyZ) to register and for more information.

### FOR THE RECORD

Based on information provided to the Gazette, the April 28 issue listed Clyde Hodge’s title incorrectly in the story about mentoring awards. A professor of psychiatry and pharmacology in the School of Medicine, he is a member of the Bowles Center for Alcohol Studies. 

### NEWS IN BRIEF SUBMISSIONS

Next issue includes events from May 27 to June 16. Deadline for submissions is 5 p.m., Mon., May 17. E-mail [gazette@unc.edu](mailto:gazette@unc.edu). Fax: 962-2279; clearly mark for the Gazette. Campus Box# 6205. The Gazette events page includes only items of general interest geared toward a broad audience. For complete listings of events, including athletics, see the Carolina Events Calendars at [www.unc.edu/events](http://www.unc.edu/events).

# WORKING AT Carolina

## English professor wants to rewrite teaching system

Bradley Hammer remembers sitting in class as his professor dully cycled through the lesson plan. He remembers how boring it was. He remembers daydreaming and responding with his classmates to the only question the professor ever asked: “Do you guys understand?”

The response was always the same: a quiet “yes” that escaped the partially open, partially lifeless mouths of the students like an incantation.

The perfunctory response led Hammer to understand something. “I realized something very simple,” he said. “He didn’t care if we knew anything. He asked ... and it made him feel warm enough in his heart that he could move on.”

That understanding also gave Hammer, a lecturer in English and comparative literature at Carolina, an incentive to do more than simply instruct students. He wants to change the way they are taught by reconstructing the essay into more than opinionated discourse.

Making learning enjoyable is important to Hammer, but he doesn’t baby his students. “I’m not your mother,” he says as he pushes them to learn.

When Hammer surveys the classroom and sees a befuddled face, he addresses the student with a simple request: “Explain.”

That’s how he gauges students’ knowledge. If they can demonstrate what they know, they understand.

His passion for teaching, not simply lecturing, began early on when he first taught students to write better English essays. He

couldn’t get students to think critically, a problem he believes is rooted deeply in U.S. schooling.

“The more I taught the essay and the more I understood about the essay, the more I never really saw much critical thought,” Hammer said. “So I started to play around with the essays to try to get my students to write more critically.”

He began by asking such questions as, “Why do you have



all this presumptive logic?” and, “Why is your research only in relationship to what you are trying to prove in the first place?”

But that didn’t make a difference.

“I realized after a while that it’s not an issue of how to get students to write better essays,” Hammer said. “It’s the essay

See HAMMER page 11

### RETIREMENT STATEMENTS WILL BE AVAILABLE ONLY ONLINE IN MID-MAY

Want to learn more about where your TSERS account stands? Annual benefits statements from the Teachers’ and State Employees’ Retirement System (TSERS) will be available in mid-May for retirement system members.

The retirement system will not mail statements to employees’ home addresses; you can only access your statement online.

Your annual benefits statement contains personalized information, including:

- Contributions to the N.C. Retirement System, including the NC 401(k) and/or the NC 457(b) Deferred Compensation plan, as of Dec. 31, 2009;
- Beneficiary designation(s);
- A projected retirement benefit for members with at least one year of service;
- A Social Security estimate based on a projected retirement age of 62; and
- A gap analysis — a projection of what the member may have saved toward retirement versus what may be needed in retirement.

#### Accessing your statement

You can access your statement online by following these steps:

- First, visit [www.myncretirement.com](http://www.myncretirement.com) and click on the “ORBIT” button;

### HUMAN RESOURCES BRIEFS

- Once logged in, click on “View Annual Benefits Statement”; and then
- Select a statement year to view the pdf.

A key part of the statement is your gap analysis, which points out the differences between the monthly income you may have in retirement and the monthly income you may need. That difference is called the “gap.”

The gap was estimated by comparing the difference between 80 percent of current compensation with an estimated value of future pension benefits as well as projections of the future value of any supplemental savings in the NC 401(k) and/or the NC 457(b) plans.

Based on this information, Office of Human Resources officials said, you can act quickly to help bridge any potential financial gap.

If you have fewer than 12 months of service as of Dec. 31, 2009, your statement will not include a projected monthly pension benefit. Your future statements will include this information, however, and will offer a more accurate gap analysis.

#### Additional information

Frequently asked questions and a user guide are available in

the Active Employees section of the TSERS Web site at [www.myncretirement.com](http://www.myncretirement.com).

Members of the NC 401(k) plan and the N.C. Deferred Compensation plan (NC 457 plan) who have questions about the annual statement should call Prudential Retirement at 866-NCPlans (866-627-5267).

If you are not enrolled in the above plans and have a question about your statement, you should call the N.C. Retirement Systems Division at 877-627-3287.

### STATE HEALTH PLAN TO SUSPEND RANDOM TOBACCO TESTING, OTHER PROPOSED CHANGES

State Health Plan officials last week announced plans to suspend random tobacco testing for the 2010–11 benefit year, which begins July 1. Brian Usischoon, senior director of benefits services in the Office of Human Resources, confirmed with plan officials that, based on enrollment statistics, the plan is comfortable not testing for tobacco use for the upcoming plan year.

State Health Plan Director Jack Walker told lawmakers last week that 20 percent of state workers had enrolled in the PPO Basic (70/30) plan for 2010–11, compared with 6 percent this year. Statistics show that about 15 percent of people covered by the State Health Plan are smokers, Walker said.

See HUMAN RESOURCES page 11

HUMAN RESOURCES from page 10


“While random tobacco testing will be suspended for the upcoming year, it’s clear that the State Health Plan will monitor enrollment patterns to determine if testing will be performed in future benefit years,” Usischon said.

At Carolina, only 14 percent of eligible employees either elected or defaulted to the Basic (70/30) plan; all other employees actively enrolled in the Standard (80/20) plan.

Also, during a recent meeting of the Legislative Oversight

Committee, a resolution was passed to draft legislation to allow currently enrolled dependents between ages 19 and 26 to remain on the State Health Plan regardless of student status.

Plan officials advise employees with dependent children who are currently covered by the plan and are graduating this May to keep their children on the plan. If the legislation does not pass, the State Health Plan will allow the University to terminate coverage for the dependent children and offer COBRA coverage retroactively.

Dependent children who are not currently covered as full-time students will have to wait until the legislation has been approved to be added back on the plan. 

BISHOP from page 12

able to use a keyboard or turn a book page.

Projected on the wall of Bishop’s office in Sitterson Hall is a map of the world that has a counter showing the number of books read on the site each day, matched with a growing number of lighted dots on the map. Each dot signifies where a child read the book.

In conjunction, a beeping sound rises or falls in pitch as the pace of books being read goes up or down.

On March 3, the map revealed that the 1-millionth book was read.

Bishop said he has always been a happy person, but he has never been more satisfied than he is now as he is about to turn 56. His work is his calling, and the void he once felt is gone.


On his home page, he describes that calling as, “We’re geeks making life a bit better.”

“Somewhat to my colleagues’ consternation, I have quit doing computer graphics and quit going to graphics conferences,” Bishop said. “This is what I devote my time to and it is the most important, rewarding

work I have done in my life.”

Brauner said she does not understand anything about computers, but she has figured out what makes Bishop tick.

“Sometimes, when I go to Gary with an idea for a game, he will scratch his head and say, ‘That is not physically possible,’” Brauner said. “But I cannot count the times he has been a miracle worker.

“He has such a strong faith and that is where his joy and his generous heart come from. He doesn’t push that on anybody, but it is always there. It is who he is.” 

## Software keeps information on Carolina’s copiers safe

A “CBS Evening News” story aired in April that revealed what many of us never thought about: The copy machines we routinely use to copy medical records, payroll information and all manner of personal files have hard drives, and those hard drives have the potential to be accessed by the next owner or lessee of the equipment.

According to the story, when a couple of used copiers were randomly purchased and the hard drives recovered, they were

found to contain thousands of police files, Social Security numbers, financial information — and medical records, which would be a HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act) violation.

John Foust is manager of Carolina Copy, which he said provides most of the copiers for the Carolina campus as well as UNC Hospitals. “Don’t worry,” he said. “We’ve got software.”

Foust said their copiers have had security software on them since summer 2007


— with the beginning of their most recent account contract — and the software exceeds both HIPAA and Department of Defense standards.

If you use a Carolina Copy machine, he said, whether you copy, print or fax, the data will be overwritten five times by the software. Prior to 2007, Foust said, the Carolina Copy machines were analog, not digital, and did not have hard drives.

To watch the CBS story, refer to [bit.ly/doERi1](http://bit.ly/doERi1). 

DIVERSITY from page 4


throughout the school’s graduate programs and basic science departments as well as the broader University community;

- Matthew Stevens, a junior who has worked extensively with the Interfaith Council, Multicultural Affairs Committee, Connected Learning Program and Muslim Students Association, for his efforts in challenging students to question stereotypes regarding ethnicity and religion;
- Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity for its commitment and efforts to recruit students from diverse backgrounds, including race, ethnicity, religious affiliation, socioeconomic status, political views and sexual orientation; and
- Peter Kramer, a longtime clinical social worker for children and families at a community health clinic in Hillsborough, for his work, both professionally and through volunteering, to bring diverse people together and foster understanding among different populations. 

STAMM from page 5

the University,” Carney said in an April 28 memo to dental school faculty members, “and Chancellor Thorp and I are extremely grateful that he is ready to step in and once again lead the school. He has our complete confidence.”

During his 15-year tenure as dean, Stamm led the school through two accreditation processes and two capital campaigns. He established the school’s first doctoral programs and oversaw the renovation of the Old Dental Building and the planning and construction of a 92,000-square-foot teaching facility and a patient simulation laboratory. Both facilities incorporated state-of-the-art instructional technology.

Also during this time, the school invested in the infrastructure for a full-service electronic curriculum, an electronic patient record system and a centrally supported digital imaging system. 

HAMMER from page 10

itself as a form, which is forcing students into a binary form of logic. They implant themselves in an assertion.”

Students become stuck in a “right or wrong” argument when they assert their thesis statements, resulting in binary, or two-sided, logic, he said.

To change the way students approach essays, Hammer has written “The Failing Essay,” a culmination of 16 years of research regarding academic writing. Although the book has not yet been published, Hammer bases his instruction on all that he learned. His goal is to eliminate opinionated essays built on non-empirical reasoning.

Hammer believes the essay, as it’s commonly used, teaches students only to argue their opinions, whether right or wrong, instead of seeking empirical truth and implications. His fix: to get rid of the essay as an opinionated argument.

“What I would like us to do is not support thesis-driven arguments, but rather deconstruct arguments through the demonstration of lack of causality between variables in the argument,” Hammer said. “I want to socialize students intellectually to have more questions than answers, and the essay, rhetorically as a form, doesn’t allow students to formulate questions.”

He advocates teaching students the importance of proving things right or wrong through causality. Even a simple “if, then” statement separates academic writing from the rest, he said.


Still, he admits his book is radical and has not been well received by his colleagues, who are hesitant to do away with the essay, a cornerstone of the academic world.

Recently, Hammer had a chance to prove his assertion that altering the essay reinforces it. In March he met with the head editor of W.W. Norton & Co., publisher of the leading textbook “The Norton Anthology of English Literature.”

“The meeting was about creating a new textbook for freshman writing classes to create a whole new way of doing freshman writing,” Hammer said. “They wanted to know who I think would be interested in it and how they would market it ... and in what ways it would be useful.”

While the future of that project — and of “The Failing Essay” — is still uncertain, Hammer takes some satisfaction in knowing he makes a difference in the classroom. His students attest to that.

“He’s definitely taught me more about writing than I ever knew before I came here,” said first-year student William Parker.

For now, that may be enough. 

*Editor’s Note: Mark Thompson, a sophomore who is majoring in journalism and mass communication, wrote this article.*

# Computer science professor Gary Bishop finds his calling as a 'geek for good' and makes life a bit better for others

There are many ways to measure the lasting value of one's work. Sometimes it's as simple as the ability to help another person.

Gary Bishop, a self-described computer geek, once rode on the cutting edge of technology with research that developed hardware and software for human machine interaction, 3-D graphics, motion tracking, virtual environments and image-based rendering.

But nearly a decade ago, as he was approaching 50, Bishop took inventory of the worth of his work, and to his surprise found emptiness.

"I said to myself, 'Wow, all the work I've done has been used to entertain people or to train people to hurt other people.'"

He decided at that moment that he wanted to produce something that could make someone's life better, without having a clue what that might be.

## POOR BUT RICH

No one would blame Bishop for using money as a measure of success.

When he was 6, his father died from a heart attack, leaving his mother to raise three children on "a little bit of veterans benefits and a little bit of Social Security," Bishop said.

Until Bishop grew up and moved away, he didn't realize the family was poor because they always had clothes and food. His mother made sure they had books, too, including a complete set of *The World Book Encyclopedia* that Bishop read in earnest after he broke his leg playing touch football in the third grade.

Being in a cast for three months, Bishop is convinced, set his life on a new course. He had nothing else to do but exercise his mind.

"Saturday morning, watching cartoons on TV, I used to sit with a World Book," he said. "Anything that caught my attention, I would read that entry. No telling how many times I went through those encyclopedias, just flipping."

Long after his leg healed, the reading bug lingered. On Saturdays, he would spend hours at the city library in nearby Savannah, usually reading about ham radio, electric motors and the pioneers of electronics.

"I always knew I wanted to be an electrical engineer," Bishop said.

In 1976, after earning a degree in electrical engineering technology from the Southern Technical Institute in Marietta, Ga., he went to work in the electrical power industry as a COBOL programmer.

He might have stayed there the rest of his life, but his mind was too jumpy to settle for a routine of sameness, so in 1979 he enrolled as a graduate student in Carolina's computer science department.

## FINDING THE HUMAN CONNECTION

Soon after Bishop arrived, Fred Brooks, who was then department chair, offered him a job as executive officer. It was 24 hours a week of heady responsibility (now the associate chair for finance), which Bishop took on during his first two years as a graduate student — the same time in which he became a husband and father.

After completing his Ph.D. in 1984, Bishop went to work



On April 29, Gary Bishop presided over the sixth annual Maze Day where 75 visually impaired students from grades K–12 played computer games created by students in his software engineering classes.

developing computer graphics and virtual reality programs for AT&T's Bell Laboratories and later, Sun Microsystems.

He started out in both places feeling like a kid in a candy store and left when the candy got stale. "You want to keep learning and I felt like I wasn't learning anything," Bishop said.

So in 1991, he came back to Carolina as a faculty member in computer science, making less than half what he earned his last year at Sun Microsystems.

But he has never thought of going anywhere else.

Why leave a place where every day presents an opportunity to try out new ideas with new people — as often by accident as by design, he said.

That is what happened to Bishop in 2001 during a period in his life when he was still searching for ways to add meaning to his work.

He ran into a blind man outside South Building in need of directions. Little did Bishop know he would receive direction in return.

The man was Jason Morris, a graduate student in classics. After Bishop explained what he did, Morris told him about the Ancient World Mapping Center in Davis Library and how people there wanted to figure out a way to produce maps for the visually impaired.

"Would you be interested?" Morris asked.

Bishop had never even heard of the mapping center, but he knew instantly that he had stumbled upon the opportunity he had been searching for to serve as a "geek for good."

Without hesitation, Bishop answered, "I'm very interested in that."

## GETTING INTO THE MAZE

He put together a group of five students who designed a system called BATS (Blind Audio Tactile Mapping System), and they developed a map of Britain under Roman rule that Morris became the first to use.

Through Morris, Bishop met Diane Brauner, a certified orientation and mobility specialist, who told him about blind children in elementary school being left behind when the class

went to computer labs because there was no software that made the computers accessible to them.

Brauner said Bishop got a horrified expression on his face and said, "That's just wrong."

His solution was Hark the Sound, a collection of sound-based computer games that allowed visually impaired children to identify songs and animal sounds.

Brauner found herself a regular guest in Bishop's course on enabling technology in which his students developed software to create a virtual maze that blind children could navigate by feeling pressure on the control to simulate contact with a wall.

In one class, a student who was not a programmer got permission to build a real maze as her project — one that replicated the virtual maze and tested whether students who first completed the virtual version could get through the real maze faster than students who had not first tried the virtual maze.

Since the maze she built was too big to haul to a school, the students had to come to it. The result was Maze Day, a carnival of sensation and sound where the boundary between learning and fun disappeared.

Now in its sixth year, Maze Day draws about 75 children in grades K–12, more than double the 30 who came the first year. Activities range from Penguin Slide in which students use a Wii Balance board to keep a penguin on the iceberg and catch fish, to Nanomanipulator where students can feel the inside of a cell, to Jungle Hopscotch in which a roll of the dice conjures sounds of the jungle.

Bishop attributes the success of Maze Day to his colleagues in computer science. "The staff are the real heroes," he said. "They put in countless volunteer hours way outside their job descriptions to make it all happen."

Bishop said many of his Carolina students arrive filled with ideas of making money off the computer games they can create and market, but he provides a dose of reality.

"I tell them, 'When you are going up against the game companies, they have millions of dollars. It's too hard,'" he said. "But when you are writing games in a domain where there is no competition, I promise you can write a game that is more fun than nothing. And what these kids have is a lot of nothing."

Through the years, many of the games have been spread across the world. Bishop keeps in his office a letter in Braille sent to him by a blind teacher in India who used one of the games in her class. Her students loved it so much, she asked if he could send her another CD.

Since the games are given away, Bishop has had to raise money to sustain creating them. Some has come from companies such as Microsoft, some from colleagues and some from local businesses and individuals who simply support the work and want to help it continue. The APPLIES service-learning program helps sponsor Bishop's classes as well.

Bishop said, "I spend the money like there is going to be more, and there always is."

## A CALLING

One invention, produced in collaboration with the Center for Library and Disability Studies in 2008, is among his proudest: a Web site for teens with developmental disabilities who are not